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Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 69/201, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its seventieth session a report on the implementation of that resolution. The report provides an overview of the world drug situation and the implementation of the mandates relating to international drug control, including the reduction of demand and supply and related measures, as well as countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation. It also provides information on action taken by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the progress made in preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report, prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 69/201, provides an overview of the world drug situation, as well as an overview of the implementation of the mandates relating to international drug control by Member States, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), other entities of the United Nations system and relevant international organizations. The report highlights the support provided by UNODC to Member States, following the structure of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem. It also provides information on the progress made by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in the preparation for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016 and on action taken by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and its subsidiary bodies. Recommendations are made regarding the world drug situation and the work of the Office thereon.

2. Member States have repeatedly reaffirmed that the world drug problem has remained a common and shared responsibility, notably in the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action. In the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation, adopted at the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Member States further pledged to intensify efforts to address the world drug problem "through a comprehensive and balanced approach". This report provides an overview of efforts undertaken by UNODC to pursue a balanced and integrated approach in controlling drugs and combating crime, as part of a United Nations system-wide effort to promote the rule of law, justice, human rights, health and development. The actions of the Office are guided by the strategic framework for the period 2014-2015 and the medium-term strategy for the period 2012-2015 approved by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2012/12, as well as by the integrated programme approach, by which UNODC operates at the national, regional, interregional and global levels.

3. At the global level, UNODC implements thematic programmes supporting the ratification and implementation of the international drug control conventions, the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto and the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice. At the regional level, UNODC promotes cross-border cooperation and regional programmes and initiatives among partner countries. At the national level, the Office assists Member States in improving their normative, institutional and operational capacity.

II. International cooperation against the world drug problem

A. Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016

4. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs is in the process of preparing for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016, pursuant to the request of the General Assembly in its resolutions 69/200 and 69/201.

5. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs held its fifty-eighth session from 9 to 17 March 2015, with four days devoted to a special segment on the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016, which was conducted in an open-ended manner. A total of 131 States participated, as well as more than 65 non-governmental organizations and 15 international and intergovernmental organizations.

6. The special segment was led by the Board tasked by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs with undertaking the preparations for the special session, which had been established at the reconvened fifty-seventh session of the Commission in December 2014, by its decision 57/2.

7. The special segment included a general debate in which a large number of high-level representatives from all geographic regions participated. The core part of the special segment was the holding of five interactive discussions on key thematic areas (drugs and health; drugs and crime; cross-cutting issues, including human rights; and new challenges, threats and approaches; and drugs and development).[1] The panels for each of these interactive discussions included representatives of the regional groups, United Nations entities and civil society.

8. In its resolution 58/8, entitled "Special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016", the Commission decided that in preparation for the special session, formal meetings would be held during the Commission's reconvened fifty-eighth session in December 2015 and during its fifty-ninth session, to be held in March 2016. In that same resolution, the Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council the approval of a draft resolution for adoption by the General Assembly, defining the modalities of the special session of the General Assembly to be held in 2016.

[1] The five interactive discussions were on the following themes: (a) Demand reduction and related measures, including prevention and treatment, as well as health-related issues; and ensuring the availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, while preventing their diversion ("drugs and health"); (b) Supply reduction and related measures; responses to drug-related crime; and countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation ("drugs and crime"); (c) Cross-cutting issues: drugs and human rights, youth, women, children and communities; (d) Cross-cutting issues: new challenges, threats and realities in preventing and addressing the world drug problem in compliance with relevant international law, including the three international drug control conventions; and strengthening the principle of common and shared responsibility and international cooperation; and (e) Alternative development; regional, interregional and international cooperation on development-oriented, balanced drug control policy; addressing socioeconomic issues.

9. Pursuant to Commission resolution 57/5, entitled "Special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016", the Commission decided to take all possible measures to ensure an adequate, inclusive and effective preparatory process, including contributions from non-governmental organizations.

10. To that end, the Commission during the period under review started an intensive consultation process with all interested stakeholders (Member States, United Nations entities and specialized organizations, international and regional organizations and civil society) to ensure that adequate, inclusive and effective preparatory process. Accompanying the formal intersessional meetings, a series of informal interactive discussions were organized on a wide range of topics, along with a number of special events jointly organized with Members States, regional organizations or civil society organizations.

11. To facilitate the consultation processes, a website was created (www.ungass2016.org), to enable global dialogue and function as a resource tool for the Commission in its preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016. By May 2015, more than 50 contributions to that website had been received from a broad range of interested stakeholders, including United Nations entities and specialized organizations and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

12. More detailed information on the March 2015 special segment on the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016, as well as the text of Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 58/8 and decisions 58/14 and 58/15, can be found in documents E/2015/28 and A/70/87-E/2015/79. Pursuant to paragraph 55 of General Assembly resolution 69/201, the President of the General Assembly convened, on 7 May 2015, a high-level thematic debate in support of the process leading towards the 2016 special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem. The debate included a plenary session with high-level representatives, a panel discussion on "Achievements and challenges by Member States in countering the world drug problem" and another panel discussion on "The importance for Member States of implementing a multidimensional and multi-stakeholder approach in addressing the world drug problem". The President of the General Assembly prepared a President's summary of the discussions and transmitted that summary to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. It has been posted on the website for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem.

B. Action taken by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

13. During the regular part of its fifty-eighth session, held from 13 to 17 March 2015, the Commission considered issues related to the scheduling of substances in accordance with the international drug control conventions and other matters arising from those treaties, strategic management, budgetary and administrative matters, the world situation with regard to drug trafficking, recommendations of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission and matters relating to the Economic and Social Council.

14. The Commission decided to include AH-7921 in Schedule I of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol. The Commission also decided to include 25B-NBOMe (2C-B-NBOMe), 25C-NBOMe

(2C-C-NBOMe) and 25I-NBOMe (2C-I-NBOMe) in Schedule I of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971. Furthermore, the Commission decided to include mephedrone (4-methylmethcathinone), *N*-benzylpiperazine (BZP), JWH-018, AM-2201, 3,4-methylenedioxypyrovalerone (MDPV) and methylone (*beta*-keto-MDMA) in Schedule II of the 1971 Convention. The Commission decided not to include *gamma*-butyrolactone (GBL) and 1,4-butanediol in Schedule I of the 1971 Convention, and it decided to postpone the consideration of a proposal concerning the recommendation to place ketamine in Schedule IV of the 1971 Convention and to request additional information from the World Health Organization and other relevant sources.

15. The Commission recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council the following draft decisions: (a) "Improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: extension of the mandate of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime"; (b) "Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its fifty-eighth session and provisional agenda for its fifty-ninth session"; and (c) "Report of the International Narcotics Control Board".

16. The Commission adopted 11 resolutions. The resolutions covered a broad range of issues, including the following: "Improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: recommendations of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime"; "Supporting the availability, accessibility and diversity of scientific evidence-based treatment and care for children and young people with substance use disorders"; "Promoting the protection of children and young people, with particular reference to the illicit sale and purchase of internationally or nationally controlled substances and of new psychoactive substances via the Internet"; "Promoting the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development"; "Supporting the collaboration of public health and justice authorities in pursuing alternative measures to conviction or punishment for appropriate drug-related offences of a minor nature"; "Strengthening international cooperation in preventing and combating illicit financial flows linked to drug trafficking, from the anti-money-laundering perspective"; "Strengthening cooperation with the scientific community, including academia, and promoting scientific research in drug demand and supply reduction policies in order to find effective solutions to various aspects of the world drug problem"; "Promoting the role of drug analysis laboratories worldwide and reaffirming the importance of the quality of the analysis and results of such laboratories"; "Promoting the use of the international electronic import and export authorization system for licit international trade in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances"; and "Promoting international cooperation in responding to new psychoactive substances and amphetamine-type stimulants, including methamphetamine".

C. Action taken by the subsidiary bodies

17. Four meetings of subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs were held in 2014: the Twenty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law

Enforcement Agencies, Africa, was held in Addis Ababa from 15 to 19 September 2014; the Twenty-fourth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, was held in Asunción from 6 to 10 October 2014; the Thirty-eighth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, was held in Bangkok from 21 to 24 October 2014; and the forty-ninth session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East was held in Vienna from 10 to 13 November 2014.

18. The subsidiary bodies addressed issues of priority in drug law enforcement in their regions and reviewed progress made in the implementation of recommendations made at previous sessions. They also made recommendations to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on various aspects of drug supply and demand reduction, including in preparation for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016. The documentation related to the meetings of the subsidiary bodies is available on the website of the Commission's subsidiary bodies.

III. Overview of the world drug situation

A. Illicit production of and trafficking in opium

19. The global area under illicit opium poppy cultivation in 2014 was 310,891 hectares (ha), the highest level since 1998. The main increase observed was in Afghanistan, where the area of opium poppy cultivation increased by 7 per cent. The potential production of opium in 2014 was estimated to be 7,554 tons, which is close to the record level observed in 2007. In contrast, the potential production of heroin decreased to 526 tons, mainly due to lower efficiencies in the production of heroin from opium. Afghanistan and Myanmar continued to account for the majority of illicit opium poppy cultivation worldwide. In Afghanistan, cultivation reached record levels in 2014, totalling 224,000 ha. Annual estimates of the area under opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan have increased for four consecutive years, with the majority of opium poppy cultivation occurring in the southern and western parts of the country.

20. In South-East Asia, opium poppy cultivation primarily occurs in Myanmar and, to a lesser extent, the Lao People's Democratic Republic. The total area under opium cultivation in the two countries was estimated to be 63,800 ha in 2014, compared with 61,700 ha in 2013. Global seizures of opium and illicit morphine remain concentrated in Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan, while heroin seizures are spread over a wider geographic area. In 2013, increasing seizures were reported along the southern route, by which heroin is trafficked southward from Afghanistan, through either Iran (Islamic Republic of) or Pakistan, destined for Asia and Europe, often via African countries or maritime routes. Significant seizures continue to occur along the Balkan route, by which heroin is trafficked to Western and Central Europe overland via South-Eastern Europe. The northern route continues to be used to transport heroin from Afghanistan to markets in the Russian Federation.

B. Illicit manufacture of and trafficking in cocaine

21. The estimated net area under coca bush cultivation worldwide as of 31 December 2013 was the lowest since the beginning of available estimates in 1990: 120,800 ha — a decline of 10 per cent from the estimated cultivation of 2012. Three Andean countries accounted for virtually all cultivation of coca bush worldwide: the total area under cultivation in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia and Peru decreased from 133,700 ha in 2012 to 120,800 ha in 2013. The illicit extraction of cocaine alkaloids from coca leaves, a first step in the manufacture of cocaine, took place almost exclusively in those three countries, which also accounted for the majority of cocaine hydrochloride manufactured worldwide.

22. The main consumer markets for cocaine in the world, namely North America and Western and Central Europe, continued to be supplied by cocaine originating in South America. Cocaine from the Andean region is trafficked northward to North America and across the Atlantic to Europe via the Caribbean or Africa. In 2013, South American countries accounted for the majority of global cocaine seizures, and cocaine seizures in the region remained stable compared to the previous year. Cocaine seizures in the consumer markets of North America and Western and Central Europe have generally followed a decreasing trend since 2005.

C. Illicit manufacture of and trafficking in cannabis

23. Demand for cannabis herb is often met through local production, resulting in more localized trafficking patterns in comparison with other plant-based illicit drugs. The cultivation of cannabis herb continues to occur in most countries worldwide, and in all regions of the world. In contrast, the large-scale production of cannabis resin remains confined to a few countries in North Africa and South-West Asia.

24. Worldwide cannabis herb seizures remained stable in 2013; increasing seizures of cannabis herb in several regions offset decreases in North America. Over the past decade, seizure trends show that cannabis resin originating in Afghanistan accounts for a growing share of the global market.

D. Illicit manufacture of and trafficking in amphetamine-type stimulants and the increasing diversion of precursors

25. After rapidly increasing up to 2012, global seizures of amphetamine-type stimulants stabilized in 2013. The regions of North America and East and South-East Asia continued to account for the majority of global methamphetamine seizures, and seizures in East and South-East Asia remained at record levels. Global seizures of amphetamine were concentrated in the Near and Middle East and South-West Asia, where authorities continued to seize significant quantities of Captagon tablets. In 2013, over half of the global seizures of "ecstasy"-type substances occurred in Europe, with the majority of seizures taking place in Western and Central Europe and South-Eastern Europe.

26. In terms of precursor chemicals, the International Narcotics Control Board identified new challenges stemming from the significant advances in the sophistication, diversification and increased scale of illicit manufacturing operations and in the sourcing of chemicals and related to the emergence of designer chemical precursors made specifically to circumvent controls, as well as global developments not specific to precursor control but with significant implications for it, such as changes in trade relations, communication and transportation.[2]

E. New psychoactive substances

27. New psychoactive substances have emerged worldwide at an unprecedented pace. By December 2014, the UNODC early warning advisory on new psychoactive substances had received information on of the emergence of a cumulative total of over 540 substances from 95 Member States and territories, up from a total of over 270 substances in 83 Member States and territories by the end of 2012.

28. A common feature of new psychoactive substances is the global organization of the market, with the Internet playing an important role by linking drug traffickers with manufacturers and consumers, facilitating promotion, communication and financial transactions, and providing access to specialized chemical knowledge. The market of new psychoactive substances is very dynamic, and a number of those drugs are transient in nature. In response, Member States have developed different national legislative responses to new psychoactive substances.

29. The challenge of detecting and identifying new psychoactive substances, coupled with the sheer number of substances on the market, presents a major obstacle for effective health and treatment interventions and law enforcement efforts. Further to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 56/4, entitled "Enhancing international cooperation in the identification and reporting of new psychoactive substances", the UNODC thematic programme on scientific and forensic services has been providing Member States with the tools required for detection and identification of new psychoactive substances, including through the provision of chemical reference standards, analytical methodology and training, and has facilitated international cooperation for sharing analytical data through its early warning advisory on new psychoactive substances.

IV. Support to Member States in thematic areas

A. Demand reduction and related measures

1. Reducing drug abuse and its health and social consequences

30. The Office convened the first meeting of the informal international scientific network in the margins of the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. The network had an open dialogue with delegations in the first ever scientific hearing and developed a statement that was read in plenary meeting. The informal group of internationally recognized scientists, nominated by Member States, is to serve as a unique informal platform for dialogue between academia, policymakers,

[2] See E/INCB/2014/4.

governmental and non-governmental organizations, civil society, the private sector and practitioners worldwide.

31. A technical consultation was held in December 2014 to develop international standards on drug dependence treatment, while the first version of the materials for seminars targeting policymakers on drug policy was piloted for 25 countries, in collaboration with the African Union.

32. Work with children exposed to drugs at a very young age continued. Treatment and social protection interventions were delivered in five countries, along with capacity-building support by the Office.

33. With regard to prevention of drug use, UNODC continued to facilitate the planning of improved national drug prevention systems on the basis of the International Standards on Drug Use Prevention in an additional 40 countries. Cumulatively, more than 200 policymakers from 60 countries have participated in the seminars, and testing prior to and following the seminars showed that there was a more than 30 per cent improvement in the knowledge of policymakers in the area of evidence-based prevention. The Office also initiated the development of a guide on monitoring and evaluation of drug use prevention through a technical consultation held in November 2014. A draft was presented at the fifty-eighth regular session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, and the first training session on the issue for policymakers took place in April 2015, in Central America. Finally, the UNODC family skills training programme in 23 countries reported statistically significant results in changing the behaviour of more than 8,000 parents and children, thereby reducing the prevalence of drug use.

34. The UNODC Youth Initiative has continued to mobilize young people through social media and with the support of grants from the Drug Abuse Prevention Centre of Japan (reaching more than 2 million young people in 20 countries). A youth forum with participants from 15 countries was organized in the margins of the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, at which the youth forum participants delivered a collective statement in a plenary meeting of the Commission.

35. Through its country and regional programmes, UNODC supported drug prevention and drug dependence treatment in more than 50 countries, most significantly in Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, countries of East Africa, Nigeria and the countries of the Andean region.

2. Access to treatment, health care and social services, including prevention of HIV/AIDS and other drug-related diseases

36. In all 24 high-priority countries for injecting drug use and HIV, UNODC engaged people who use drugs and other key partners in multisectoral, evidence-informed and open dialogue on HIV, drug policies and human rights, and supported country capacities to implement harm reduction measures, with a specific focus on opioid substitution therapy and needle and syringe programmes.

37. UNODC supported the review of national laws and policies and reinforced coordination among national authorities, for example, between the health, criminal justice and law enforcement sectors, as well as civil society. To that end, the first global consultation on HIV prevention, treatment, care and support in prison

settings was organized, involving national HIV programmes and prison authorities from 27 countries, civil society and key United Nations entities and other international partners. Furthermore, UNODC also contributed to organizing the thematic segment entitled "Halving HIV transmission among people who inject drugs" at the thirty-fifth meeting of the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

38. A training manual for law enforcement officials on HIV services for people who inject drugs was developed; the training manual reached over 1,000 law enforcement officers, representatives of the civil society and community-based organizations, as well as representatives from the health, social, educational, and justice sectors in 11 high-priority countries for HIV and injecting drug use.

39. UNODC developed and disseminated global guidance documents, for example, a handbook for starting and managing needle and syringe programmes in prisons and other closed settings, and led the development of the UNAIDS guidance notes, for applicants to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and other funds, on HIV services for people who inject drugs and HIV services for people in prison and other closed settings.

40. UNODC advanced the global dialogue and advocacy for ensuring equitable access to HIV prevention, treatment and care services for women who use drugs and female prisoners, and for female sexual partners of men who inject drugs, including by disseminating a policy brief entitled "Women who inject drugs and HIV: addressing specific needs", produced in partnership with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Network of People Who Use Drugs.

41. UNODC led the generation of strategic information on people who inject drugs and HIV and the harmonization of global data collection and analysis, and enhanced the technical skills of government and civil society staff in the monitoring and evaluation, prioritization and costing of harm reduction activities in collaboration with WHO, UNAIDS and the World Bank.

3. Access to controlled drugs for medical purposes

42. The Office continued its collaboration with the WHO Department of Essential Medicines and Health Products and the Union for International Cancer Control to pilot in Ghana and Timor-Leste a package of interventions for building systemic interventions to increase access to controlled drugs for medical purposes, while preventing misuse, abuse and diversion. The package includes legislative and policy reviews, building the capacity of health-care professionals to address the challenges of meeting the medical needs of patients, including the management of pain and palliative care, and increasing awareness at the community-level, including patient and family education. The three organizations sustained their ongoing engagement at the global level through bilateral meetings during the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, a number of side events and participation in the 2014 World Cancer Congress.

B. Supply reduction and related measures

1. Regional and international cooperation in countering the world drug problem and the principle of common and shared responsibility

43. UNODC provides technical assistance and capacity-building to Member States and their law enforcement and judicial authorities to support their efforts in combating illicit drug trafficking, strengthening border control and countering the laundering of the proceeds of crime. That assistance is provided in support of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, the Organized Crime Convention and the Convention against Corruption. A key component of national and international strategies to reduce the illicit supply of drugs is the implementation of alternative livelihood programmes.

44. UNODC delivers technical assistance to build the counter-narcotics capacity of the competent national agencies in South-East Asia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Central Asia, East and West Africa and Central and South America, acting in support of domestic and regional efforts to improve coordination in responding to and sharing information on transnational drug trafficking groups and those engaged in attempts to divert precursor chemicals.

45. Cooperation among law enforcement agencies is promoted through the UNODC programmes, inter alia, through the establishment of and support to regional centres such as the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre, the joint planning cell of Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan, and the Gulf Criminal Information Centre to Combat Drugs, together with initiatives such as the "networking the networks" initiative to establish operational links between such centres. The above-mentioned regional centres provide platforms for the sharing of criminal intelligence, the coordination of multilateral operations and the gathering of evidence against trafficking groups. UNODC is working with the States of South Asia and West Africa to establish similar regional platforms for law enforcement cooperation.

46. Three current examples of the close cooperation that UNODC engages in with international partners include the UNODC/World Customs Organization technical assistance Container Control Programme SEA, addressing the security of maritime trade supply to prevent illicit trafficking. The initiative has been adopted by 20 Member States in more than 35 operational ports. The Airport Communication Project of UNODC, the World Customs Organization and the International Criminal Police Organisation (INTERPOL) focuses on intercepting air passengers engaged in illicit trafficking. In 2015, the Container Control Programme AIR has been developed and piloted to address the security of the supply chain in air cargo, in partnership with the World Customs Organization and the International Civil Aviation Organization.

47. UNODC has provided ongoing support to the Central American Network of Prosecutors against Organized Crime, the judicial platform of the Sahel countries and the judicial platform for members of the Indian Ocean Commission. The Office has worked with competent national authorities to establish the Network of West African Central Authorities and Prosecutors to provide similar support to authorities in the successful prosecution of illicit trafficking and cross-border organized crime.

2. Sustainable crop control strategies targeting the illicit cultivation of crops used for the production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances

48. UNODC continued to provide technical assistance to Member States affected by illicit crop cultivation and supported the design, implementation and evaluation of national drug control strategies through alternative development programmes.

49. In Colombia and Peru, UNODC continued to provide support to farmer-led small business enterprises and cooperatives, which resulted in significant socioeconomic improvements for farming families in coca bush-growing areas. In Peru, exports of products of alternative development totalled in excess of $161 million in 2014. In Colombia, cocoa exports for high-quality niche market products continued to increase.

50. In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, 60,000 farmers benefited from alternative development programmes between 2009 and 2014, representing nearly the entire population living in coca-growing areas.

51. In Afghanistan, UNODC promoted the expansion of community-based alternative development activities. Fourteen small-scale projects were designed and implemented in 2014 in accordance with the national alternative livelihood policy. By implementing social contracts, beneficiary communities decreased opium poppy cultivation and continued to discourage the involvement of youth in illicit activities.

52. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar, thanks to the successful mix of new agricultural practices and tools making greater use of knowledge in traditional cultivation and farming, food security and licit income continued to improve for beneficiary farmers. In the southern Shan state in Myanmar, agroforestry coffee cultivation contributed to reforestation, promoting environmental sustainability as a key component of alternative development interventions.

53. A joint expert group meeting of UNODC and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation of Germany and the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) was held in Berlin in November 2014 on the topic of alternative development in the framework of the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly to be held in 2016 and the post-2015 development agenda debate. Representatives from 10 countries discussed the drivers of illicit drug crop cultivation and the means to address them, the current state of alternative development, possibilities and challenges of expanding alternative development programmes to tackle illicit drug crop cultivation in Africa, and the inclusion of the issue of alternative development in the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem in 2016.

54. UNODC prepared, jointly with the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation of Germany, the German Agency for International Cooperation and the Transnational Institute, a conference room paper for Member States, at the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, on the outreach to new stakeholders in the field of alternative development (E/CN.7/2014/CRP.7).

C. Countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation

55. In 2014, through its Global Programme Against Money-Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism, UNODC helped build capacity in the areas of countering money-laundering and the financing of terrorism for 66 requesting countries in nine subregions. That assistance was delivered through training, international conferences and substantive legal reviews.

56. Ongoing assistance by UNODC included tailored training for the staff of judicial authorities, financial intelligence units, law enforcement authorities and customs and border control agencies. The training addressed the practical and operational aspects of countering money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, as well as the disruption of illicit financial flows.

57. UNODC continued to provide support to the Asset Recovery Network of the Financial Action Task Force of South America against Money-Laundering and the Asset Recovery Network of Southern Africa, the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for Asia and the Pacific. In 2014, UNODC launched the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for West Africa.

58. UNODC continued to update the International Money-Laundering Information Network and its Anti-Money-Laundering International Database. In addition, UNODC experts conducted a joint research project with the Financial Action Task Force on illicit financial flows from Afghan opiates and participated in conferences and workshops on that topic as part of the work of UNODC under the Paris Pact initiative.

59. A joint UNODC-Financial Action Task Force study entitled *Financial Flows Linked to the Production and Trafficking of Afghan Opiates* was finalized in June and published in the third quarter of 2014. The Global Programme Against Money-Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism contributed to the *Basic Manual on the Detection and Investigation of the Laundering of Crime Proceeds*, covering the investigation of money-laundering using virtual currencies.

60. Together with the Commonwealth Secretariat and the International Monetary Fund, UNODC began updating the current model provisions for common-law legal systems on money-laundering, terrorist financing, preventive measures and the proceeds of crime.

61. The provision of legislative assistance for the ratification and implementation of the United Nations crime-related conventions, including the 1988 Convention, is a key function of UNODC. Such assistance includes training for relevant authorities and practitioners on the various aspects and requirements of the conventions, gap analysis, advice on existing legislation and support for drafting or amending legislation.

62. During the past few years, UNODC has developed technical assistance tools to facilitate international cooperation in criminal matters, including the directory of competent national authorities, the Mutual Legal Assistance Request Writer Tool and manuals on international cooperation. More recently, a knowledge management portal known as Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws on Organized Crime (SHERLOC) was developed and is being updated to include in future more structured information on, among other things, drug-related aspects.

63. At the regional level, UNODC has continued to support Member States in setting up informal networks of prosecutors and central authorities to facilitate international cooperation, such as the Central American Network of Prosecutors against Organized Crime and the Network of West African Central Authorities and Prosecutors.

64. UNODC has also been working in promoting the so-called "networking the networks" initiative, which is aimed at building stronger cooperation links between various regional and international law enforcement organizations to ensure interregional criminal intelligence-sharing and to support multilateral joint or coordinated operations.

V. Data collection and research

65. UNODC continued to support countries in improving the availability of data on drugs. In particular, UNODC continued to assist various governments in the monitoring of illicit crops and production of drugs. In 2014, technical support was provided to Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, Ecuador and Peru for monitoring coca bush cultivation, to Afghanistan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar for monitoring opium poppy cultivation, and to Mexico for monitoring opium poppy and cannabis plant cultivation.

66. UNODC is also supporting countries in the design and implementation of drug use surveys. In 2014, ongoing technical assistance was provided for both a national household drug use survey and a problem drug use survey in Nigeria, as well as a national survey of health behaviours in Myanmar, and preparations are being made for a drug use survey to be conducted in Palestine.

67. The *World Drug Report 2015* contains a chapter on alternative development, its evolvement and its role in a balanced approach to drug control. It focuses on how alternative development, within the broader context of the development agenda, aims to break the vicious cycle of illicit crop cultivation by providing farmers with alternative livelihoods. More than 40 years of alternative development experience demonstrates that alternative development works when it has a long-term vision, adequate funding and the political support to integrate it into a broader development agenda. The discussion also highlights the trend of reduced funding of alternative development over the period 2009-2013 and the overall limited volume of funding provided for alternative development (less than 0.2 per cent of overall development assistance in that period).

68. In 2014, with the technical and financial support of UNODC (namely, through the Afghan opiate trade project), the Afghanistan Customs Department and Pakistan Customs produced reports on their needs assessment with respect to drugs and precursor control mechanisms: *Needs Assessment of Drugs and Precursors Control Mechanisms at the ACD and Drugs and Precursors Controlling Techniques: Gap Analysis and Need Assessment for Pakistan Customs*. The reports assessed the existing capacity of the customs authorities of Afghanistan and Pakistan to counter the trafficking of drugs and precursors. The reports have been used by the Governments of Afghanistan and Pakistan to assess counter narcotics policies.

69. Pursuant to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions 56/4, 57/11 and 58/9, the Office established and enhanced the UNODC early warning advisory on new psychoactive substances, a global Internet-based platform to monitor, analyse and report trends on new psychoactive substances, in the framework of its global Synthetics Monitoring: Analysis, Reporting and Trends (SMART) programme (see sect. III.E, above). The platform serves as a basis for effective evidence-based policy responses and collaboration with national, regional and international partners such as the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, as well as WHO and its Expert Committee on Drug Dependence. Research outputs included a regional report on synthetic drugs in East and South-East Asia and Oceania in 2015 and briefs covering methamphetamine manufacture and synthetic cannabinoids. Capacity-building activities for the identification of synthetic drugs, for law enforcement officers, were undertaken in South-East Asia and Oceania, whereas activities conducted in Latin America focused on improving drug use surveys in collaboration with the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission.

70. UNODC continues its efforts to enhance the analytical capacity of drug analysis laboratories to meet internationally accepted standards through the development of manuals and guidelines on procedural approaches, forensic methodologies and laboratory best practices. The number of national drug-testing laboratories participating in the international collaborative exercises has continued to increase, with currently 180 participating laboratories in 60 Member States.

VI. Inter-agency cooperation

71. UNODC works closely with international and other regional organizations such as INTERPOL, the World Customs Organization, the European Police Office (Europol), the Southeast European Law Enforcement Center, the Association of South-east Asian Nations Chiefs of Police and other entities, both in the implementation of specialized technical assistance and in encouraging coordination between their respective members in addressing illicit trafficking and cross-border organized crime.

72. The United Nations entities represented in the United Nations system task force on transnational organized crime and drug trafficking as threats to security and stability continued to provide input to the preparatory process for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem through participation in the meetings of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and contributions to the website of the special session.

73. The Office is promoting a health-centred approach to the implementation of the international drug control conventions and supports Member States in addressing crime- and security-related aspects of the world drug problem within a rights-based framework.

74. UNODC continued its collaboration with WHO to strengthen services based on scientific evidence and ethical standards for the treatment, care and recovery of people suffering from drug dependence in 45 countries. In that context, UNODC and WHO continued to promote voluntary treatment services in communities as an alternative to prison and compulsory detention centres.

75. The Office has strengthened its collaboration with other co-sponsors of UNAIDS to reinforce the need to place public health at the core of all responses to the world drug problem. The Office chaired the UNAIDS Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations in 2014 and, in that process, encouraged the full and substantive participation of all stakeholders, including civil society, in developing a new strategy for the efforts of the United Nations system to tackle HIV/AIDS.

76. Since the signing of an exchange of letters between the European Union and UNODC in 2005, cooperation between the two organizations has developed rapidly. Frequent policy-level exchanges have been matched by intensive operational cooperation on projects in the field, reaching a level that makes the European Union one of the most important operational partners of UNODC. In the past year, there have been fruitful discussions on issues related to mainstreaming UNODC mandates in the post-2015 development agenda, with a particular focus on security, justice and the rule of law and creating a robust review mechanism for tracking progress on the sustainable development goals, once they are adopted. The European Union continued to support the UNODC integrated programmes in Nigeria, other parts of Africa, Latin America, Asia and the Middle East and North Africa region.

VII. Governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

77. At the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Member States welcomed the work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of a decision for the extension of the mandate of the working group until the first half of 2017, and adopted a resolution containing recommendations for its future work.

78. During the past year, the working group continued to play an important role in preparing action by the governing bodies of the Office in key areas, including strategic and budgetary matters, the programmatic work, evaluation and oversight, as well as its financial situation.

79. The Office continued to strengthen its efforts in results-based management by decentralizing responsibility for development of accountability frameworks to programme managers and through strengthened training outreach and the consolidation of results-based annual programme reports that will enhance transparency and communication with multiple stakeholders.

80. In keeping with the sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda, the Office has been strengthening its strategic planning efforts by assisting Member States to develop coherent and integrated approaches to address organized crime, illicit trafficking, corruption and terrorism and the root causes thereof.

81. Regarding the private sector, UNODC continued to raise awareness and pursue partnerships in the areas of drug use and HIV/AIDS prevention.

82. UNODC further continued to strengthen its evaluation culture. Consultation with the Independent Evaluation Unit is mandatory for programme/project managers

to ensure that sufficient funding is reserved and that evaluations are planned and conducted. The Unit has led and completed the evaluation of all regional programmes, thereby fulfilling a recommendation by the Joint Inspection Unit. Furthermore, country and global programme evaluations have been conducted, as well as independent project evaluations. Further progress includes the finalization of an online tool for all evaluations and strengthened results-based management mechanisms for the evaluation portfolio. Draft findings of the meta-analysis of evaluation results were presented to Member States and senior management.

83. The financial situation of UNODC remains vulnerable. The consolidated budget of UNODC for the biennium 2014-2015, as revised, totals $760.1 million, of which 11.7 per cent comes from regular budget funds and 83.3 per cent from extrabudgetary resources. Low levels of non-earmarked or soft-earmarked funding represent a key challenge to the effective implementation of the mandates and programmes of UNODC and put a strain on the management, coordination and normative functions.

84. In line with the cost recovery policies promulgated by the United Nations Controller, the Office is ensuring that funds for programme support costs are used only to cover indirect support functions, while the cost of direct support functions for UNODC programmes is to be covered from the respective programme budgets. The objective is to move to a more predictable and stable funding mechanism, including a possible annual appeal and annual reporting. The biennium 2014-2015 is a transitional one, as consultations with Member States continue, with the aim of providing transparency and clarity and conducting an internal review of cost structures.

85. Pledges for voluntary contributions reached $280.9 million in 2014, and a similar level is anticipated for 2015. Among the largest donors are Australia, Brazil, Colombia, Denmark, the European Union, Germany, Japan, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

86. General-purpose contributions declined to $6.8 million in 2014 and a further decline is projected for 2015. General-purpose funds were almost exclusively provided by the following donors: Algeria, Austria, Bangladesh, Chile, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, India, Japan, Kuwait, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Singapore, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and United States, as well as Hong Kong, China. Significant cost-sharing of the local support budget was provided by Brazil, Mexico and Panama.

VIII. Recommendations

87. It is recommended that the General Assembly consider taking the following actions:

International cooperation against the world drug problem

(a) Urge Member States to fully implement all the provisions of the international drug control conventions, in accordance with the relevant

resolutions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly;

(b) Urge Member States to take the measures necessary to implement the actions and attain the goals and targets set out in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem and the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, on the way to 2019;

(c) Encourage Member States to continue to work together to ensure efficient preparations for and successful conduct of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016;

(d) Request the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue promoting the rule of law at the international and national levels, including through the mainstreaming of drug control and crime prevention in regional and national development plans and programmes, and assisting Member States to track implementation of the progress made in ensuring community safety, access to justice and drug dependence prevention and treatment services;

(e) Urge Member States to continue to actively cooperate with the International Narcotics Control Board in the exercise of its mandate;

Demand reduction and related measures

(f) Urge Member States to consider substance use disorders as health issues, promoting drug prevention, treatment and care based on scientific evidence, such as the *International Standards on Drug Use Prevention*, as the most effective way of addressing the problem of substance use disorders;

(g) Call upon Member States to significantly increase the coverage and quality of evidence-based prevention and treatment interventions for substance use disorders and discourage the use of criminal sanctions in addressing substance use disorders;

(h) Urge Member States to ensure that national legislative frameworks and sustainable financing mechanisms are in place to implement United Nations-recommended HIV prevention, treatment and care services for people who inject drugs and people in prisons and other closed settings;

(i) Urge Member States to promote measures to ensure the availability and accessibility of internationally controlled drugs for medical and scientific purposes, particularly for the relief of pain and for palliative care;

(j) Encourage Member States to ensure that affected populations and civil society entities play a participatory role, where appropriate, through consultation, in the development and implementation of drug control programmes and policies, in particular with regard to aspects of demand reduction, and in the review process for programmes and policies;

Supply reduction and related measures

(k) Request the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to strengthen the forensic capacity of Member States to identify the recently scheduled

substances in seized material and biological samples in support of evidence-based policy development;

(l) Call on Member States to support their national competent authorities to overcome legislative and procedural obstacles to a cooperative, multi-agency response incorporating operational coordination between authorities to effectively counter the activities of criminal organizations engaged in drug trafficking and cross-border organized crime;

(m) Urge Member States to encourage their competent national authorities to support the networking of networks between law enforcement agencies engaged in the investigation, prosecution and dismantling of drug trafficking groups engaged in cross-border organized crime;

(n) Encourage Member States to promote the use of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development and to support the expansion of alternative development programmes, including through the facilitation of market access for products stemming from alternative development to contribute to the generation of legitimate long-term income for small farming communities;

(o) Encourage Member States to incorporate alternative development in the post-2015 development agenda to ensure a comprehensive development-oriented long-term drug control strategy;

Countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation

(p) Call upon Member States to continue to foster international cooperation by implementing the provisions against money-laundering contained in all relevant international and multilateral instruments, such as the 1988 Convention, the Organized Crime Convention and the Convention against Corruption;

Data collection and research

(q) Urge Member States to report data and information related to illicit drug trends regularly and in a timely manner to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime through mandated data collection tools, in particular the annual report questionnaire and the individual drug seizure reports;

(r) Request the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue providing technical assistance, upon request, to Member States that lack the capacity to collect accurate, reliable and comparable data and information on illicit drug production, trafficking and drug use and related harm, with a view to increasing their capacity to provide information through mandated data collection tools, and urge Member States to support the Office in that work;

(s) Request the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue collaboration with national, regional and international partners in monitoring new psychoactive substances with respect to the composition, production, distribution and patterns of use, and encourage Member States to share relevant data and information with regard to patterns of use, risks to public health, forensic data and the regulation of new psychoactive substances using the web-based early warning advisory on new psychoactive substances;

Governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

(t) Call on Member States and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue building a culture of accountability and evaluation and ensure that lessons learned and recommendations from projects and programmes are implemented and used for the development and implementation of new projects and programmes, thereby instituting a culture of improving performance, transparency and accountability;

(u) Urge Member States to provide the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with adequate, predictable and stable resources, including additional regular budget resources, to enable it to implement its mandated work in a sustainable manner, and to provide the Office with the necessary voluntary contributions, preferably on the basis of non-earmarking or soft-earmarking, to enable the Office to effectively respond to the increasing demand for technical assistance and to continue its technical cooperation with regional bodies and partner countries worldwide.